

not say was at all addicted to the use of liquors, might take in the case of champagne or sparkling Mosselle, more alcohol than a Somersetshire or Dorsetshire labourer would take in the case of beer. The labourer might become fuddled on a pint of beer, while the lady might take twice the quantity of alcohol without being affected.

12436a. Do you think that beer has largely taken the place of spirits in ordinary use, and that the change is promotive of sobriety?—Undoubtedly. The districts where I have noticed the greatest amount of intemperance have been always those places where beer, and especially lager, has been difficult to get.

12437a. Have you noticed that men who work on rafts or in the water are apt to consume considerable quantities of spirits?—Lumbermen undoubtedly do.

12438a. To what do you attribute that?—To their inability to get it moderately and continuously. They have long periods of total abstinence, and when they do get it they take it to excess.

12439a. Does the business in which they are engaged call for a greater degree of stimulant than the ordinary labourer requires?—They can consume a great deal more with less injury to the system. Seafaring men can take very much larger quantities of alcohol, even in the form of ardent spirits, than the ordinary labourer, and the ordinary labourer more than the man of sedentary habits.

12440a. In the case of men who work on rafts and in the water, would ale really answer the same purpose if they took it?—Yes, a strong Scotch ale.

12441a. Have you studied at all the question of the effect of the use of liquor in regard to length of life?—I looked that up some five or six years ago. I have not the statistics now at my fingers' ends. But I was convinced at the time, and I had the facts on which I based my opinion very much in my mind, that the moderate use of alcohol if anything conduces in longevity. Those insurance companies which were started some few years ago with total abstinence as part and parcel of their policy, and incorporated in the policies they issued, have in all cases gone up. The only exceptions are those insurance societies which include moderate drinkers. The statistics that have been put forward by these societies, in which comparisons have been made between total abstainers and drinkers, unfavourable to the drinkers, and which have been largely drawn on for the purposes of argument, have clouded the real facts. They have taken, not the statistics of the two classes in their own society, but the ordinary mortuary statistics and compared them with the class of total abstainers, so that the statistics of drunkards as well as moderate drinkers have been mixed together. They have two headings to their statistics—"total abstainers" and "temperate." Their total abstinence column is correct so far as it goes; but their "temperate" class has been taken from the ordinary mortuary returns, which include both temperate and intemperate.

12442a. In the ordinary statistics made up by public officials would not the heading "temperate" include both the total abstainer and the moderate drinker?—Now, I am referring to the insurance statistics.

12443a. Do you mean to say that the statistics of the ordinary insurance companies class all drunkards as temperate?—Agents, in order to get a risk, will often accept a man who is notoriously intemperate.

12444a. You mean, not that the word temperate is intended to apply to those who drink to excess, but that men who drink to excess are wrongfully placed in the temperate column?—That is my idea.

12445a. And therefore that column is not reliable?—Is not reliable for one moment—is totally erroneous.

12446a. Did you see the results put forward some time ago by the British Medical Association in regard to the effect upon life of total abstinence?—That is open to the same objection. It was conducted under practically teetotal auspices, and to speak plainly the figures were considerably juggled with. What they classed as "temperate" they really took from the ordinary mortuary returns.

12447a. We had before us the other day a physician who told us that the drinking of beer was the cause of a great deal of Bright's disease, and that of a certain number of beer drinkers in the locality in which he had practised, every one except one had died of Bright's disease. What is your opinion as to whether Bright's disease is induced by the use of either spirituous or fermented liquors, and if it is, to what extent?—I

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